

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 7, 2008

Olav Volldal  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kongsberg Automotive  
N-3601  
Kongsberg, Norway

Dear Mr. Volldal:

I am writing to you on behalf of the employees of Kongsberg Automotive in Van Wert, OH. On April 2, more than 300 workers were locked out of their jobs after voting against ratification of their labor contract.

I have repeatedly encouraged the local management at Kongsberg to work toward a fair and equitable agreement with their employees. Many of these employees have devoted most of their lives to ensuring that performance at the facility meets the highest standards. They are eager to return to work and a negotiated resolution would benefit the company, the employees, and the entire Van Wert community.

Since Kongsberg acquired the plant (formerly known as Teleflex) in 2007, management has locked out more than 300 workers from their jobs, rejected the concessionary counteroffer made by the United Steelworkers, and subsequently issued a WARN notice indicating that 177 jobs will be transferred to Mexico. As a result, tensions in the community have escalated and families are facing devastating financial hardship and uncertainty.

As you are aware, representatives of the United Steelworkers of America will be traveling to Norway to meet with Kongsberg management and labor leaders. I strongly encourage you to communicate with them your plans for the Van Wert facility and to provide the necessary assistance to their devoted employees.

It is my sincere hope Kongsberg will take the dedication and talent of the Van Wert workers into account and pursue strategies that treat these workers fairly. I stand ready to assist you in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator